Revision of private godown rents

494. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is bereft of funds to effect revision of private godown rents as desired by Government; and

(b) if so, the total amount involved in this regard and what steps are being taken by Government to ensure implementation of their orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) FCI has been paying rent of the Godowns hired from the private parties from time to time as per the lease agreement entered into with them on mutually agreed terms. On the representations of Godown Owners Association, a Committee was set up by FCI for addressing certain issues relating to private Godowns. The report submitted by the Committee as well as FCI's views thereon is under consideration of the Government.

Hike in the prices of food-items of P.D.S.

495. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hike substantially the food-prices supplied through P.D.S.

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of rise contemplated by Government and how does it compare with the price hike effected last and how many times prices were increased during these months;

(d) what is its likely impact on the P.D.S. beneficiaries particularly those belonging to weaker sections of society; and

(e) whether government propose to roll back these prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) With a view to neutralising the financial burden consequent upon the hike in MSP of wheat and paddy and grant of bonus over and above the MSP of wheat and also to containing the food subsidy to a manageable level, the Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice have been revised for APL families only w.e.f. 29.1.99 as under:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodities	CIP FOR APL		
	Before 29.1.99	From 29.1.99	Increase %
Wheat	450	650	44.4
Rice			
Common	550	700*	27.3
Grade 'A'	700	905	29.3

* for APL families, applicable only to J&K, Himachal Pradesh and hilly areas of N.E. States including Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh.

After the increase in CIPs of wheat and rice effected from 1.2.1994, the CIPs were revised on 1.6.1997 with the inception of the Targeted PDS to cater to the BPL and APL population. The CIP of rice were readjusted with effect from 1.12.1997 consequent upon merging of fine & superfine varities of rice into Grade 'A'.